

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 88-023

SITE CLEANUP REQUIREMENTS FOR:

Schnitzer Steel Products Company, Inc.
Foot of Adeline Street,
Oakland, CA

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, (hereinafter called the Board) finds that:

1. The Schnitzer Steel Products Company, Inc. facility is located at the foot of Adeline Street on the Oakland Inner Harbor. Schnitzer Steel Products Company, Inc. is hereinafter called the discharger.
2. The discharger operates a scrap metal recycling facility which includes operation of a marine terminal for exporting scrap metals. Recent Bay Conservation and Development (BCDC) Permit No. 19-86 authorized the discharger to make improvements to the 34.9 acre facility to include construction of a new ship loader system and construction of a shoreline cap to prevent polluted soils from migrating to the Oakland Inner Harbor, tributary to Central San Francisco Bay.
3. In October 1986, soil at the City of Berkeley landfill containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals was removed and properly disposed by the discharger. The apparent source of the contaminated soils was the discharger's Oakland facility. Based upon this finding, the RWQCB staff and the Department of Health Services (DOHS) requested that the discharger investigate the possibility of soil and ground water pollution at the Oakland facility. The discharger completed a limited site investigation at the Oakland facility dated May 5, 1987 which reported elevated levels of copper, lead, zinc and PCBs in soils under the facility's auto shredding operation. Ground water samples showed some PCBs (35 - 88 parts per billion, ppb). Additional site characterization was requested based upon this limited site investigation.
4. On July 13, 1987, the discharger submitted a report entitled "Environmental Residuals In Soil And Groundwater Near The Shoreline Of The Schnitzer Steel Products Site -- Oakland, California". This report found elevated levels of heavy metals in surface and subsurface soils at the shoreline including lead, nickel, copper and zinc. PCBs were also found in shoreline area soils at levels up to 65 parts per million (ppm). Soils containing heavy metals and PCBs threaten to adversely affect beneficial uses of the Oakland Inner Harbor and Central San Francisco Bay should these soils migrate from the shoreline area to the bay. Ground water samples for the shoreline area contained no PCBs, and metals at levels below those of concern to beneficial uses of the bay should they migrate to the bay.

5. In response to concerns expressed by Board staff, the DOHS, and BCDC, the discharger proposed a remedial action plan for the Oakland facility in a letter dated September 23, 1987. This plan includes the construction of a concrete cap 10-feet wide paralleling the entire shoreline, slanted towards the center of the facility to control surface runoff. The discharger will continue to operate a rainfall runoff collection system for the site which involves runoff collection, settling and in-plant recycling. Ground water monitoring wells at the shoreline were also proposed. This plan was accepted by the DOHS in a letter dated October 22, 1987, and by Board staff in a letter dated October 7, 1987.

6. The DOHS has required a deed restriction for the facility in accordance with Section 25221.1 of the California Health and Safety Code. This deed restriction will be placed on the property to insure that the concrete cap is not disturbed or removed and that human health and the environment is protected.

7. The Board finds that the requirements of Subchapter 15 of the California Administrative Code (Title 23, Chapter 3) do not apply in this matter. The Board considers that the remedial work proposed by the discharger involving partial site capping and ground water monitoring is consistent with the Provisions of Subchapter 15. As such, the Board finds that these remedial actions exempt the discharger from the requirements of Subchapter 15 in accordance with Section 2511(d) of that Subchapter.

8. The Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan) on December 17, 1986, and the State Water Resources Control Board approved it on May 21, 1987. The Basin Plan contains water quality objectives for Central San Francisco Bay.

9. The existing and potential beneficial uses of Central San Francisco Bay are:

- a. Industrial Service Supply
- b. Industrial Process Supply
- c. Navigation
- d. Water Recreation
- e. Ocean Commercial and Sport Fishing
- f. Wildlife Habitat
- g. Fish Spawning
- h. Fish Migration
- i. Shellfish Harvesting
- j. Estuarine Habitat
- k. Preservation of Rare and Endangered Species

10. Discharge Prohibitions, Specifications, and Provisions of this Order are based on the Basin Plan, State and Regional Board policies, and best engineering judgment.

11. The project involves partial site capping and ground water monitoring at the site as required by the laws and regulations administered by the Regional Board. This action is categorically exempt from the provisions of the CEQA pursuant to Section 15321 of the Resources Agency Guidelines.

12. The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent under California Water Code Section 13304 to prescribe Site Cleanup Requirements for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.

13. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Schnitzer Steel Products Company, Inc., pursuant to Section 13304 of the California Water Code, shall cleanup and abate the effects described in the above findings at its Oakland facility:

A. Prohibitions

1. The discharge of pollutants in any manner which will degrade the water quality or adversely affect the beneficial uses of the surface waters of the State is prohibited.

2. The migration of pollutants through subsurface transport to deeper water bearing zones is prohibited.

3. The lateral migration of pollutants through subsurface transport to Oakland Inner Harbor which will degrade water quality or adversely affect beneficial uses is prohibited.

B. Specifications

1. Should monitoring or any other evidence of pollution migration be found, additional characterization of the vertical and lateral extent of pollution may be required.

2. The cleanup or disposal of polluted soil or ground water shall not create a nuisance as defined by Section 13050 (m) of the California Water Code.

C. Provisions

1. The discharger shall comply with all sections of this Order immediately upon adoption.

2. The discharger shall submit to the Board technical reports on self-monitoring work performed according to the program prescribed by this Provision, as follows, and as may be amended by the Board's Executive Officer.

a. Four ground water monitoring wells shall be installed just inland of the concrete cap and screened in the top five feet of the first water bearing zone.

b. Wells shall be sampled quarterly for heavy metals and PCBs.

3. All hydrogeological plans, specifications, reports, and documents shall be signed by or stamped with the seal of a registered geologist, engineering geologist or professional engineer.

4. All samples shall be analyzed by State certified laboratories or laboratories accepted by the Board using approved EPA methods for the type of analysis to be performed. All laboratories shall maintain quality assurance/quality control records for Board review.

5. The discharger shall maintain in good working order, and operate, as efficiently as possible, any facility or control system installed to achieve compliance with the requirements of this Order.

6. The discharger shall permit the Board or its authorized representative, in accordance with Section 13267(c) of the California Water Code:

- a. Entry upon premises in which any pollution sources exist, or may potentially exist, or in which any required records are kept, which are relevant to this Order.
- b. Access to copy any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this Order.
- c. Inspection of any monitoring equipment or methodology implemented in response to this Order.
- d. Sampling of any groundwater or soil which is accessible, or may become accessible, as part of any investigation or remedial action program undertaken by the discharger.

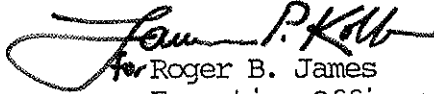
7. The discharger shall file a report on any changes in site occupancy, use or ownership associated with the facility described in this Order.

8. The discharger shall file a report on any changes in deed restrictions and/or uses of the site as described in this Order.

9. If any hazardous substance is discharged in or on any waters of the state, or discharged and deposited where it is, or probably will be discharged in or on any waters of the state, the discharger shall report such discharge to this Regional Board, at (415) 464-1255 on weekdays during office hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and to the Office of Emergency Services at (800) 852-7550 during non-business hours. A written report shall be filed with the Regional Board within five (5) working days and shall contain information relative to: the nature of waste or pollutant, quantity involved, duration of incident, cause of spill, Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) in effect, if any, estimated size of affected area, nature of effects, corrective measures that have been taken or planned, and a schedule of these activities, and persons/agencies notified.

10. The Board will review this Order periodically and may revise the requirements as necessary.

I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on February 17, 1988.


Roger B. James
Executive Officer